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015/018

Serial No. 10/706,617

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 20-25 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 2, 10-12, 14, and 20-25 are amended herein to clarify the recited subject matter. No new matter is added by the amendments which are supported throughout the specification and figures. In particular, the amendments are supported at least by figures 1-4 and the accompanying description. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner indicates on last line of the continuation of the Advisory Action that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been withdrawn. Applicants have previously amended claim 23 as suggested by the Examiner, and therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection is obviated.

Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,253,218 to Aoki et al. (hereinafter referred to as Aoki). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Advisory Action refers to "thickness of density", and relies on figure 47 of Aoki as alleged disclosure of the feature of the claimed visual representation using the concept of weight/density. However, figure 47 does not use a concept of density, but apparently illustrates a visual representation of an actual density of data using a depth direction (z-axis). This is not a visual representation using a concept of density. Furthermore, the statement in the Advisory Action that "a denser object is a heavier object" is clearly false, as the example of a comparison between a hot air balloon and a feather clearly shows. The hot air balloon is much heavier, but less dense, than the feather.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, and for purposes of clarifying the claimed subject matter, claims 23-25 have been amended herein. Amended claim 23 includes the element of "an attribute input unit configured to acquire a value of an attribute for at least one

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file in order to represent the value of the attribute by using a concept of density; a position determining unit which sets a relative display position of a predetermined object representing the at least one file, the relative display position representing the value of the attribute *by comparing the value* in terms of the density with *a virtual buoyant force exerted on the predetermined object displayed on the screen in at least one direction.*" It is respectfully submitted that none of the references disclose objects visually represented in terms of the concept of density experiencing a virtual buoyant force. The cited figure in Aoki simply shows page-like images arranged on a z-axis. There is no visual representation of an attribute using the concept of density and virtual buoyancy as recited in the claims, and therefore for at least these reasons claims 23-25 are allowable.

Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10, 12-14, and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/075322 to Rosenzweig et al. (hereinafter referred to as Rosenzweig). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is directed to a file processing apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, an attribute input unit which acquires a value of an attribute for at least one file *in order to represent a value of a predetermined attribute for an intended file by using a concept of weight* and a comparison processing unit which compares the value of an attribute with a reference value. The file processing apparatus of claim 1 *visually represents the value of the attribute in terms of whether the weight is heavy or light*, by displaying the object at the display position on a screen set by said position determining unit. In amended claim 1, wherein *the display position indicates that a virtual force is exerted on the object displayed on the screen at least in one direction.*

As discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that Aoki does not disclose or suggest the concept of density as recited in the claims. Likewise, there is no indication that there is *any*

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display representation of an attribute *based on the concept of weight*. None of the figures disclose a representation that visually represents a display position based on a concept of weight applied to the attribute.

However, also in the interest of expediting prosecution, and for purposes of clarifying the claimed subject matter, claims 1, 10, 12, 14, and 20-22 have been amended herein. The amended claims include the feature that the display position indicates that *a virtual force is exerted on the object* displayed on the screen at least in one direction. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references disclose or suggest the feature of displaying an object in a position based on an attribute using the concept of weight in which a virtual force is exerted on the object. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims and their dependent claims are allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Aoki and Rosenzweig, and further in view of United States Patent Publication No. 2002/0175896 to Vaananen et al. (hereinafter referred to as Vaananen). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The addition of Vaananen fails to cure the critical deficiency discussed above as regards Aoki applied against the independent claims. Therefore, claims 2 and 11 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims, claims 1 and 10, are allowable.

Additionally, dependent claims 2 and 11 have been amended to include the feature of varying the relative display positions and the direction in which the force is exerted according to the inclination. Therefore, for at least this additional reason claims 2 and 11 are allowable.

Claims 7, 8, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Aoki and Rosenzweig, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,340,957 to Adler et al. (hereinafter referred to as Adler). Applicants respectfully traverse.

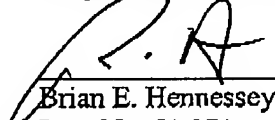
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The addition of Adler fails to cure the critical deficiency discussed above as regards Aoki applied against the independent claims. Therefore, claims 7, 8, and 15 are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims, claims 1 and 14, are allowable.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No.: SCEP 20.732 (100809-00225)
BEH:fd